

PRESS RELEASE

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South Metro Georgia Express Lanes Reach Significant Milestone – Project Halfway Complete

The \$223 million project is scheduled to open in early 2017

ATLANTA– The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes have reached an important milestone with the project at 50 percent completion. Since breaking ground in October 2014, significant progress has been made throughout the corridor on the construction of new bridges, sound walls, drainage structures, signage and pavement.

“Reaching the halfway point marks a significant milestone for this Georgia Express Lanes project. The South Metro Express Lanes will be the first of a network of reversible express lanes throughout the metro area,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurtry.

On schedule to open in the first quarter of 2017, the South Metro Express Lanes project will add two reversible managed lanes along I-75 south of Atlanta. The project corridor extends 12 miles, from exit 216 (SR 155/ McDonough Road) to exit 228 (SR 138 / Stockbridge Hwy), and will provide motorists with direct connection points from I-75 and I-675. The Express Lanes will be reversible, operating northbound in the morning toward the City of Atlanta and southbound in the evening, thereby maximizing the benefit of the new infrastructure.

Since the start of construction of the new managed lanes system, crews have laid more than 167,070 tons of asphalt, constructed five of the eight sound walls and installed 50 percent of the tolling system technology for the Express Lanes system. Additionally, significant progress has been made on the construction of the South Metro project bridges including Mt. Carmel Bridge, Jonesboro Road Access Bridge, Flippen Road Bridge and I-675 Flyover Bridge.

The barrier-separated reversible express lanes will be managed by dynamic pricing to provide trip reliability. The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) and Georgia DOT will jointly monitor and operate the Express Lanes, and modify the system flow during high demand periods and for special events. In order to use the lanes, vehicles will need a registered Peach Pass mounted on the inside windshield. Georgia’s Peach Pass may also be used on toll lanes in Florida and North Carolina, and efforts are underway to expand partnerships with other states.

About Georgia Express Lanes

Georgia Express Lanes are dynamically priced lanes that run alongside existing interstates in some of the most congested corridors around metro Atlanta. These lanes provide a choice for drivers to pay a toll to bypass congestion when desired, offer a clear path for transit operators and add an alternative to the roads that exist today. The Express Lanes network is intended to provide a mobility choice and more reliable travel times in peak periods for motorists and bus patrons. All Georgia Express Lanes rely on variable-price to maintain free-flowing travel even during peak travel times. Express Lanes are already open on I-85, and more corridors are in development. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>.

About Peach Pass

The Peach Pass is a small, thin electronic toll collection device that adheres to a vehicle windshield OR a bumper that mounts to the front of your vehicle. The Peach Pass is connected to an account established with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) that automatically deducts tolls when using the electronic toll lanes to include the I-85 Express Lanes, the upcoming I-75 South Metro Express Lanes and any future toll roads in the state of Georgia. A Peach Pass can also be used on toll roads in Florida and North Carolina with the proper license plate number on the account. To learn more about Peach Pass, and to register for an account go to www.PeachPass.com.

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